

HOUSE RESOLUTION 42

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Eddie Griffin for his many professional accomplishments.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor those individuals who, through their magnificent exploits and abilities, distinguish themselves in the arts, bringing great pride to the State of Tennessee and establishing themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Eddie Griffin, a successful actor, comedian, and musician who has worked assiduously to establish himself in the entertainment industry and now enjoys the career for which he has always hoped and planned; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Griffin began his career in Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked as a choreographer for a soccer team until his cousin bet him to go onstage during a visit to a local comedy club; and

WHEREAS, after winning the bet, Mr. Griffin purchased a one-way ticket to Los Angeles to begin performing as a comedian; and

WHEREAS, one month later, he was performing at the renowned Comedy Store, where he was compared with esteemed talents such as Richard Pryor, Redd Foxx, and Lenny Bruce; and

WHEREAS, these many successful performances led to Eddie Griffin's appearance on "Def Comedy Jam," the Cable Ace-nominated "One Night Stand," the HBO special "Voodoo Child," and onstage at the legendary Apollo Theater; and

WHEREAS, an able and popular comedian, Mr. Griffin's success in the comedic arena landed him jobs in television and film, for which he is now widely recognized; and

WHEREAS, on the small screen, Mr. Griffin made appearances in a series of popular commercials for Miller Lite Beer, and during the 2006 holiday season he appeared as an elf in the NBC holiday television movie, "The Year Without a Santa Claus"; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Griffin is most famous for his lead as the star of UPN's hit comedy series "Malcolm & Eddie," for which role he won an NAACP Image Award for Best Actor in a Comedy Series; and

WHEREAS, in addition to lending his acting experience to this sitcom, he also wrote and directed four episodes, one of which starred his mentor, Richard Pryor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Griffin's extensive film resume includes films such as "Undercover Brother," "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," its sequel, "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo," "Date Movie," "Scary Movie 3," "Redline," "My Baby's Daddy," "John Q.," "Armageddon," and the Sundance Film Festival "Dysfunktional Family," which combined his stand-up comedy act with a cinematic look at his personal life; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Griffin also produced and co-wrote "Dysfunktional Family," performing on the film's soundtrack with Suge Knight; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Griffin's comedy album, "The Message," features comedic and musical performances by him as well as by Master P, Silkk the Shocker, and Fiend; and

WHEREAS, he hosted the first live comedy/R&B/hip-hop webcast, "MLK 2K: We Still Have the Dream," during a Comedy Store performance; and

WHEREAS, enjoying immense success in his acting career, Eddie Griffin formed his own independent record label, Bluelight Records; an accomplished musician himself, Mr. Griffin is also the member of his own band called Eclectic Divinity; and

WHEREAS, as Mr. Griffin's exposure increases and his career continues to thrive, he is continually instrumental in orchestrating new projects; and

WHEREAS, his most recent film appearances have been in "The Wendall Baker Story," "Norbit," in which he starred as Pope Sweet Jesus, working alongside Eddie Murphy, "Irish Jam," "Date Movie," and "Bunyan and Babe,"; and

WHEREAS, an established actor, musician, and comedian, Eddie Griffin continues to travel nationally to perform in comedic shows and pursue his acting career; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Griffin is a highly accomplished individual who has contributed significantly to the arts and to the entertainment of the citizens of this great State and citizens all over the United States, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Eddie Griffin for his flourishing career in the entertainment industry, thank him for his many contributions to the arts and to bringing laughter to people all over this country, and wish him every success in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.